




Speech By  
**Stirling Hinchliffe**

**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 June 2015

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION (PROTECTING  
FIREFIGHTERS) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (4.13 pm): I think the reporting time proposed by the member for Kawana does rough justice to the parliamentary committee system. Last night in this House, from those opposite we heard all sorts of proclamations about how they were somehow the champions of the committee system and that they were its guardians and protectors. That was in the context of a debate on reporting time frames for parliamentary portfolio committees inquiring into private members' bills, such as the one before the House, which would bring those reporting dates forward to 14 September. Members will note that the government supported those opposite, in the main, in bringing those dates forward to 14 September. That was reasonable and appropriate.

However, last night I was surprised that in the end those opposite, who had been so keen to see those matters dealt with by 14 September, voted against the proposition. They were happy to have the private members' bills dealt with in the ordinary time frame as provided for under standing orders, which would have seen the committees reporting back to the House in November. Even though they said that they were concerned about and interested in seeing those matters dealt with by 14 September, when ultimately the proposition came before the House, having been amended to allow for the vast majority of those private members' bills to be reported to the House by committees by 14 September, they voted against it.

In relation to this motion, it is proposed that the committee report to the House on this private member's bill by 13 July—that is, the next sitting of parliament. We need to make sure that these matters are considered and responded to appropriately. I think that it would be a travesty and an offence to the parliament and our commitment to the committee system to see it short stalled in this way. This has not been a matter where there has been ongoing consultation in the community. The member for Kawana has lobbed this into the chamber—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr Rickuss** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! One moment, please, Leader of the House. Pause the clock. Member for Lockyer and member for Nanango, you will have an opportunity to speak after the current member finishes, if you choose.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** It is absolutely appropriate that the committee takes evidence from a range of stakeholders, including, and very importantly, firefighters and their representatives. That would be a very good thing. It is important that the committee has the best opportunity to do that. In the past that has been the appropriate process in relation to private members' bills and it would be welcomed. I would welcome it and I am sure that the member for Kawana would welcome it as well.

It would be appropriate, either in person, in writing or through a representative from the opposition, to bring to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly a proposal for a reporting date earlier than the automatic six-month process. Were that to happen, we could consider and discuss it to ensure that we come up with a proper response that accounts for the management of the portfolio committee's workload and appropriate consultation with the broader community. However, this course of action—this bluff and bluster from the member for Kawana, which is completely on trait—has been thrown into the House. I accept and understand absolutely that this is something that the House can deal with, as we did last night. However, to allow for better consideration and for the better working of the House, rather than trying to ram things through, it would be preferable to refer the matter to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. I look forward to that happening. To allow for that proper reflective process to happen, I encourage the House to vote against the motion moved by the member for Kawana.